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Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-9 are allowed and that claim 11 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim.

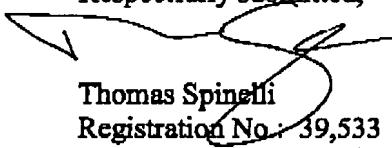
In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,193,709 to Miyawaki et al., (hereinafter "Miyawaki").

In response, independent claim 10 has been amended to include the features of allowable dependent claim 11. Consequently, claim 11 has been canceled. Thus, claim 10 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable. Claims 12 and 13 are at least allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

No new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the present amendment to independent claim 10. Since, claim 11 has been previously considered and indicated as being allowable, the amendment of claim 10 to include the features of claim 11 also does not raise a new issue. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the present amendment of claim 10.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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